



POLICE DEPARTMENT COUNTY OF SUFFOLK
ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY
DEPARTMENT DIRECTIVE
PDCS-2008-1

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ORDER NUMBER 15-52

TYPE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER	AUTHORITY EDWARD WEBBER POLICE COMMISSIONER	SIGNATURE
SUBJECT/TOPIC/TITLE BIAS-FREE POLICING		
DISTRIBUTION ALL MEMBERS OF THE DEPARTMENT	SECTION CREATED 11/02/15	DATE EFFECTIVE 11/02/15
		DATE AMENDED 11/02/15

RULES AND PROCEDURES

CHAPTER 1: TITLE: ORGANIZATION AND PHILOSOPHY OF THE DEPARTMENT

SECTION 11: TITLE: BIAS-FREE POLICING

I. PURPOSE

To define and prohibit biased-based policing in all forms.

II. POLICY

A. Members of the Suffolk County Police Department shall provide fair and equitable police service to all, and shall treat all persons with dignity and respect.

B. By providing bias-free police service to all persons and communities within Suffolk County, members will increase the effectiveness of the Department as a law enforcement agency and will build mutual trust and respect with those persons and communities.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. Bias-based Policing - is synonymous with "discriminatory policing" and means selective enforcement or non-enforcement of the law, including the selecting or rejecting of particular policing tactics or strategies, based upon an individual's race, ethnicity, national origin, age, gender, religion, sexual orientation, or gender identity. Biased-based policing does not mean using any trustworthy information, relevant to the locality and timeframe, to identify a person of a particular race, ethnicity, national origin, age, gender, religion, sexual orientation, or gender identity in a reliable and recent suspect-specific description.

B. Routine or Spontaneous Law Enforcement Activities - are actions taken by members of the Department in the course of official duties, such as:

1. vehicle stops and searches;
2. pedestrian stops and questioning;

3. frisks and bodily searches;
4. consensual and non-consensual searches of persons or property, and
5. detentions, arrests or issuance of summonses.

IV. REFERENCES

N/A

V. RULES AND REGULATIONS

A. Members are prohibited from engaging in bias-based policing.

1. Members shall not use race, ethnicity, national origin, age, gender, religion, sexual orientation, or gender identity when engaging in routine or spontaneous law enforcement activities, except when engaging in appropriate suspect-specific activity to identify a particular person or persons.

2. Members shall take no action, nor make any decision, based upon a motive influenced by bias, prejudice or discriminatory intent.

B. Members who have engaged in, ignored or condoned biased-based policing shall be subject to discipline.

1. Members who have observed or are aware of other members who have engaged in bias-based policing shall report such conduct to a supervisor immediately.

2. Supervisors receiving notification that a member has engaged in bias-based policing shall report such conduct to the Internal Affairs Bureau in accordance with the procedures set out in Chapter 5 of these Rules and Procedures.

3. Internal Affairs investigators shall investigate all allegations of bias-based policing in accordance with the procedures set out in Chapter 5 of these Rules and Procedures.

C. No member shall retaliate against any person who reports or provides any information regarding an act of bias-based policing committed by any other member.

VI. PROCEDURE

A. When engaging in routine or spontaneous law enforcement activities, members should:

1. Assess situations before initiating individual contact only by objectively evaluating indicators of potential criminal activity, and/or suspect specific characteristics.

2. Once individual contact is initiated, members should:

a. willingly share the reason for the stop or detention, unless doing so would compromise officer safety or the safety of the public;

b. make decisions regarding subsequent courses of action based upon an objective assessment of the circumstances;

c. ensure that detentions take no longer than is reasonable for the known or suspected offense or incident.

3. After individual contact has ceased, members should follow standard reporting practices as outlined in these Rules and Procedures, including the receipt, notification and referral of any complaints.

VII. ACCREDITATION

A. NYSLEAP 1.1, 25.1, 50.1

VIII. INDEX

Bias-Free Policing - 1/11

END